



Ventnor Urban District Council

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THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1955

THE VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT

THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1955

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor F.S. Smith

Councillors J. Colbeck, S.G. Conbeer,
L.G. Cosh, W.C.S. Hake, F.H.G. King, J.P.,
and Mrs. M. Younghusband.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

D. Warren Browne,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.

Sanitary Inspector

E.E. Roughton
M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended 31st December 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ventnor Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for 1955 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district. As you will be aware, the Medical Officer of Health for this period was Dr. D. Warren Browne, and I have therefore confined this report to the vital statistics and commentary thereon.

Vital Statistics

The estimated population decreased from 6890 to 6840 in 1955. It was not surprising, therefore, to find that the live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population and the death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population were 11.9 and 9.1, very slight changes from the previous year. The stillbirth rate per 1000 total births rose to 13.2, but this figure need be no cause for alarm as the total number of stillbirths for Ventnor was only one, and the figure of 13.2 gives a misleading impression.

It is pleasing to see again the death rate from puerperal causes at zero.

The death rate of all infants per 1000 live births decreased from 36.6 to 13.3, and this substantial reduction was once more due to the small number of deaths of legitimate and illegitimate infants under one year of age.

Deaths from measles and whooping cough continued to be nil, and for this we must once more give praise to the excellent general practitioner service and to the use of improved forms of whooping cough vaccine which was given to increasing numbers of children in the surgeries and clinics during the year.

Figures for deaths from cancer (all forms) per million population were 2923 for Ventnor and 2055 for England and Wales, and on looking at the causes of death, it is significant to see that carcinoma of the lung and bronchus trebled in the male, whereas cancer of the stomach declined. There were no cases of lung carcinoma occurring in women, but carcinoma of the uterus appeared to have increased slightly.

Other figures for causes of death of interest are those of tuberculosis where it is pleasing once more to note that Ventnor had only two deaths from respiratory tuberculosis and none from non-respiratory disease.

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels, which include coronary disease and high blood pressure, increased in every case, not markedly, but in keeping with figures for the rest of the country. These are diseases which appear to be on the increase, partly because of the increased

/stress

stress of modern life, and also because of the decrease in deaths from other causes due to improved medical services and progress in treatment.

There were two deaths from motor vehicle accidents.

On the whole, the major causes of death fell under cancer with a total of 20 and diseases of the heart and circulation with a total of 51, out of a grand total of 90.

Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet fever declined from 7 to nil, and this is in keeping with the progressive decline which has occurred during the last two or three decades; indeed, the classical case of scarlet fever is now seldom seen and certainly deaths from this disease have greatly declined. This has been due in no small measure to the advent of penicillin and sulphonamides.

The number of pneumonia cases notified rose from 3 to 6, with one death. Five of these cases were elderly persons.

There has been an increase in the number of cases of measles and whooping cough notified, i.e. 2 to 31 in the former and from 5 to 36 in the latter. This increase could be due to the swing which occurs from year to year with these two diseases. The numbers of susceptible subjects usually show a similar variation in a small static population and could be the explanation for these anomalies. Actually the figures for whooping cough were 526 for 100,000 population for Ventnor and 178 for England and Wales. This would appear to reflect unfavourably on immunisation against whooping cough, but it must be remembered that the infections were undoubtedly attenuated in the inoculated and fatalities were nil.

There were no cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in 1955 and only one case of non-paralytic; no food poisoning outbreaks were notified. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs for any holiday resort.

Tuberculosis.

The total cases notified shows a slight increase. Allowing for those cases transferred from the mainland, it can be seen that once more the pulmonary cases outnumber the non-pulmonary with a greater proportion in the young adult and elderly age groups. The slight increase in non-pulmonary cases suggests that it is still necessary for vigilance in connection with the production and distribution of milk. Figures for tuberculosis of the respiratory system for England and Wales were 77 per 100,000 population and for Ventnor 102. Tuberculosis of other forms were 11 and 43 respectively. These figures should be compared cautiously because variations in small populations are always magnified when expanded for comparison with the country as a whole.

The report of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. G.S. Self, is included as an appendix to this report. He has confined himself to a commentary of the details of inspections carried out by his predecessor, Mr. E.E. Roughton, who was in office during the year 1955.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. MAXWELL BROWNE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS1. GENERAL

Total hours of sunshine during 1955:-

January	44.5 hrs.	July	305.0 hrs.
February	114.4 hrs.	August	248.5 hrs.
March	196.5 hrs.	September	190.5 hrs.
April	193.2 hrs.	October	145.7 hrs.
May	240.0 hrs.	November	78.5 hrs.
June	205.0 hrs.	December	35.8 hrs.

Total rainfall during 1955	28.18 inches
Area in acres	3,522
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955)	1,891
Rateable value	£67,224
Sum represented by ld. rate	£260. 18. 10.

2. VITAL

Population (Registrar General's estimate) 6,840

<u>Births</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of live legitimate births	38	34	72
Number of live illegitimate births	1	2	3
Live birth rate for 1,000 of estimated resident population			11.0
Comparative factor (births)			1.09
Comparative birth rate			11.9
Live birth rate for 1,000 England and Wales			15.0
Number of legitimate stillbirths	1	-	1
Number of illegitimate stillbirths	-	-	-
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			13.2

Deaths

Total number of deaths	44	46	90
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			13.2
Comparative factor (deaths)			0.69
Comparative death rate			9.1
Death rate England and Wales			11.7
Deaths from puerperal causes			-
Number of deaths of legitimate infants under one year of age	-	1	1
Number of deaths of illegitimate infants under one year of age	-	-	-
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			13.3
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			13.9
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
Deaths from measles (all ages)			-
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)			-
Deaths from cancer (all ages)			20

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (2)	1 (1)
Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (-)
Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (-)
Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)
Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)
Meningococcal infections	- (-)	- (-)
Acute poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)
Measles	- (-)	- (-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	- (-)	1 (-)
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach	- (1)	- (2)
" " - lung and bronchus	3 (1)	- (-)
" " - breast	- (-)	1 (2)
" " - uterus	- (-)	2 (-)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9 (8)	4 (6)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1 (-)	- (-)
Diabetes	1 (-)	- (-)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3 (2)	8 (6)
Coronary disease, angina	9 (8)	6 (5)
Hypertension with heart disease	1 (-)	1 (-)
Other heart disease	8 (9)	13 (13)
Other circulatory disease	1 (1)	1 (-)
Influenza	- (-)	- (-)
Pneumonia	- (-)	- (2)
Bronchitis	3 (2)	3 (1)
Other diseases of respiratory system	- (1)	- (-)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	- (-)	- (1)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	- (1)	- (-)
Nephritis and nephrosis	- (-)	1 (-)
Hyperplasia of prostate	1 (-)	- (-)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- (-)	- (-)
Congenital malformations	- (2)	- (-)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1 (5)	2 (5)
Motor vehicle accidents	1 (-)	1 (-)
All other accidents	1 (2)	1 (-)
Suicide	- (-)	- (1)
Homicide and operations of war	- (-)	- (-)
All causes	44 (45)	46 (45)

Note: Figures for 1954 are entered in brackets.

HEALTH SERVICESPrevalence and Control of Infectious
and Other Diseases

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet fever	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	6	-	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	1	1	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-
Measles	31	12	-
Whooping cough	36	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	1	-
Acute encephalitis (post-infections)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	7	6	-
Tuberculosis (meninges and C.N.S.)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (other)	3	2	-
	86	22	1

Age at date of notification

<u>Age</u>	Scarlet fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Measles	Whooping cough	Meningococcal infection	Erysipelas	Acute encephalitis (Post-infections)	Tuberculosis (respiratory)	Tuberculosis (Meninges and C.N.S.)	Tuberculosis (Other)
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 " " 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	14	-	-	-	1	-	1
10 " " 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 " " 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
35 " " 45	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
45 " " 65	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	31	36	-	2	-	7	-	3

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS - None notified.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES - From the weekly returns of headteachers:-

Chicken Pox	32
German Measles	2
Mumps	17
Ringworm	1
	<u>52</u>

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Total</u>	<u>Deaths</u>			
		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.			Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 " " 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 " " 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 " " 35	6	3	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
35 " " 45	3	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
45 " " 55	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 " " 65	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 " " 75	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 and over	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	≠ 17	9	5	2	1	2	1	1	-	-

≠ This number includes 7 transfers from the mainland.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Number of samples taken during 1955	24
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	-
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated.	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the year 1955 for the Urban District
of Ventnor.

Part I of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)
see overleaf.

<u>Premises</u>	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	16	20	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1. in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	32	37	1	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	48	57	1	-

Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding S.2	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature S.3	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation S.4	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors S.6	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	5	5	-	-	-

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Salisbury Gardens,
Ventnor, I.W.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Ventnor Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1955. I am indebted to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Maxwell Browne, for the privilege of including it as a separate item in his annual report.

As your previous Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E.E. Roughton, resigned in May 1956 to take up a post in Hastings and I had the honour to be appointed in his place, this can only be a proxy report on his behalf and my comments must be purely statistical.

It is pleasing to note that 30 visits were made concerning improvement grants and that by the implementation of the Housing Act, 1949, structurally sound old houses are being brought up to modern standards.

The regular inspection of food premises has been maintained throughout the year and milk and ice cream have been sampled with generally satisfactory results.

There appears to have been a decrease in the number of pigs passing through the Wroxall Bacon Factory but even so, 120 visits were necessary to inspect 7,726 pigs. In this connection some satisfaction may be derived from the fact that the incidence of tuberculosis in all the animals inspected has fallen from 2.2% in 1954 to 2.08% in 1955. The other conditions for which pigs were condemned were chiefly oedema with emaciation, and fever, and the number of whole carcasses surrendered for this cause represented only 0.2% of all the pigs slaughtered. As in previous years, all diseased meat was disposed of under strict supervision on the premises.

By arrangement with the Isle of Wight Water Board, water samples are taken at the sources of supply as well as in the distribution mains. It is pleasing to note that both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of samples have shown that the water supplied to the public is pure and wholesome.

I have the honour to be
Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

G. STANLEY SELF.

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS
MADE IN 1955.

Number of complaints received	210
Number of informal notices and requests	126

Public Health Acts

Visits and inspections of houses	337
Number of houses in which disrepairs were found	58
Number of houses in which disrepairs were rectified	26
Number of houses in which nuisances were found	17
Number of houses in which nuisances were rectified	15
Visits and inspections of verminous premises	28
Number of verminous premises treated	17
Visits and inspections concerning defective drainage	180
Visits and inspections of new drains	16
Defective drains found	23
Defective drains rectified	28
New drains tested	43
Visits and inspections concerning refuse disposal	81
New dustbins provided as a result of informal action	45
New dustbins provided as a result of statutory action	2
Unsatisfactory conditions found and remedied	1
Visits and inspections of camping sites	16
Visits to stables and piggeries	10
Visits to rag and bone dealers	6
Visits concerning cases of infectious disease	15
Visits and inspections re water supplies	28
Samples taken for bacteriological examination	136
Samples taken for chemical analysis	3

Although some of the samples of raw water taken at the source were found to be polluted, all samples taken from the mains after chlorination were pronounced satisfactory by the Public Health Laboratory. The public analyst was also satisfied with the results of his examination of the three samples sent to him.

Housing Acts

Visits and inspections	61
Visits concerning improvement grants	30
Visits concerning rehousing	25
Case of statutory overcrowding investigated	1
Case of statutory overcrowding abated	1
Closing orders made	3
Undertaking to repair accepted in lieu of closing or demolition order	1

Food and Drugs Act

Visits and inspections of food premises	203	
Unsatisfactory conditions found	25	
Unsatisfactory conditions rectified	24	
Visits and inspections of licensed premises	11	
Unsatisfactory conditions found	3	
Unsatisfactory conditions rectified	2	
Visits and inspections of dairies	34	
Milk samples taken	43	
Unsatisfactory samples	1	
Visits and inspections of ice cream premises	26	
Ice cream samples taken	18	
Unsatisfactory samples	8	
		<u>Weight</u>
Visits to Bacon Factory	120	
Number of pigs slaughtered and inspected	7726	
Number of whole carcasses condemned for tuberculosis	5	688 lbs.
Number of whole carcasses condemned for other reasons	16	2029 lbs.
Number of part carcasses and organs condemned for tuberculosis	156	1919 lbs.
Number of part carcasses and organs condemned for other reasons	721	3202 lbs.
Percentage of pigs affected with tuberculosis	2.08	

Other unsound food condemned and disposed of included:-

Fresh meat	193 lbs.	Tinned vegetables	68 lbs.
Tinned meat	154 lbs.	Tinned fruit	131 lbs.
Tinned fish	9 lbs.	Tinned milk	14 lbs.
Fresh fish	84 lbs.	Potatoes	80 lbs.
Jam	4 lbs.	Cheese	69 lbs.
Cake mixture	8 lbs.	Dressed crab	24 lbs.
Dried green peas	100 lbs.	Sausage	24 lbs.
Livers	20 lbs.	1970 pies approx.	528 lbs.
$\frac{1}{2}$ gallon salad cream		2 gallons orange juice	

The total weight of unsound food condemned in the district during 1955 was, therefore, over $4\frac{3}{4}$ tons.

Pests Act

Visits re infestations of rats and mice	50
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SUMMARY OF REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS
CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

Roofs repaired	16
Dampness remedied	10
Floors repaired or relaid	6
Doors and windows repaired	12
Walls and ceilings cleansed and decorated	17
Repairs to ceilings and wall plasters	7
Ceilings renewed	8
Fireplaces renewed	6
Fireplaces repaired	5
Chimney stacks repaired and made safe	5
Rainwater gutters and down pipes repaired and renewed	14
Drains relaid	7
Drains repaired and cleansed	28
Water closets repaired	10
New water closet pans provided	15
Yard paving repaired	9
Sinks provided	8
Water storage cisterns renewed	11
